

# ASHLAND DAILY TIDINGS

By Kernan Turner Amigo Club

January 18, 2016 8:01PM

## Exchange programs strengthen Ashland-Guanajuato ties



Classical guitarist Jordan Tapp of Leon, Guanajuato, plays Saturday, Jan. 23, at Paschal Winery. Submitted photo  
The Ashland Amigo Club is sponsoring a recital by classical guitarist Jordan Tapp of Leon, Guanajuato, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at Paschal Winery.

Tapp, the 20-year-old grandson of the club's Guanajuato liaison, Señora Tapp-Kocks, began guitar studies in Mexico with his father at age 11, but within three years was accepted at the studio of Oscar Díaz, one of Mexico's outstanding classical guitarists. In 2012, he won the Salamanca National Guitar Competition (Concurso Nacional Salamanca).

Tapp's performance at the winery at 1122 Suncrest Road, Talent, will include Isaac Albeniz's "Asturias," two compositions by Agustín Barrios, and a wide variety of other works, ranging from Francisco Tarrega's "Rosita Polka" to Bach preludes. The suggested donation is \$15.

### **Ashland artist to sign new book at SOU reception**

Ashland artist Betty LaDuke will sign and sell copies of her new book, "Bountiful Harvest," at a reception on Wednesday, Jan. 27, on the Southern Oregon University campus.

LaDuke has a long relationship with the Amigo Club. Her panels celebrating farm workers have been exhibited at the Medford and Portland international airports and museums around the United States.

The free reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Schneider Museum is open to the public and will offer light refreshments and beverages.

The book features a selection of full-color reproductions of LaDuke's work and her recollections of childhood in the Bronx, art studies and teaching in Mexico, her tenure at what was then Southern Oregon College and her world travels.

Author royalties and a portion of book sales will go to the Oregon Community Foundation to support cultural and educational programs for Southern Oregon farm workers' children.

### **Guanajuato nursing students coming to Ashland**

Eight University of Guanajuato nursing students and two faculty members are coming to Ashland on Jan. 23 to spend three weeks doing research in the area. The Oregon Health & Sciences University School of Nursing (Ashland campus) has organized the visit.

The Amigo Club will greet the visitors at a brunch on Sunday, Jan. 24.

The visit is part of continuing exchange program between the OHSU Ashland campus and the University of Guanajuato. Eight nursing students from Ashland went to Guanajuato last spring. Guanajuato is Ashland's Sister City.

The exchange program got underway with a \$25,000 grant from the U.S. Department of State, Partners of the Americas and NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The OHSU School of Nursing in Ashland was one of seven winners nationally.

The OHSU application for the grant said the exchange would focus on health and nutrition.

While in the Rogue Valley, the Guanajuato students will conduct research on combating obesity-linked behavior through physical activity and nutritional education and examine health beliefs and practices that contribute to obesity risks.

The program grew out of President Barack Obama's "100,000 Strong in the Americas" initiative that proposes increasing to 100,000 by the year 2020 the number of U.S. students studying abroad in other Western Hemisphere countries and increasing the number of Western Hemisphere students studying in the United States by the same amount.

The initiative seeks to prepare a globally aware workforce. The Ashland School of Nursing has said, "When disease travels by jet and populations migrate seasonally across borders, public health is a global concern."

### **Guanajuato firefighters to attend Ashland training**

Two Guanajuato firefighters will attend two training classes May 8-20 offered by Ashland Fire & Rescue, one on using controlled fire in forests to prevent summer wildfires, and the other on specialized trench rescue.

The firefighters will join other visiting firefighters at the Prescribed Fire Training Exchange program, or TREX, followed by a three-day trench rescue course.

Ashland Fire Chief John Karns said he hopes they share their training with colleagues in Guanajuato.

*Amigo Club's Entre Amigos (Between Friends) column about Ashland ties to its sister city Guanajuato, Mexico, appears on the third Tuesday of each month. Longtime AP reporter and bureau chief Kernan Turner is an Ashland resident and Amigo Club member.*

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